

**September 29, 2004**  
**MCA-MDT Technical Committee Meeting**

The meeting began at 8:00 a.m.

Mike Sharp opened the meeting with introductions. There was some general discussion where Matt Strizich was introduced as the new Materials Engineer, Kevin Christensen was introduced as the new Butte DCE, and Dan Smith was introduced as the new Specifications Engineer. Also, it was mentioned toward the end of the meeting that the current Highway Bill expires the day following the meeting. FHWA informed the group that their staff would be furloughed as of Friday. Joel Marshik indicated that there would probably be another extension.

**NEW BUSINESS F/ MDT**

1. **Major Item.** MDT proposed a change to the Major Item specification from 10% to 5%. The new language will be distributed formally for comment on October 4<sup>th</sup>.
2. **Bid Express.** MDT informed MCA about the contractor tests that took place since our last meeting. MDT stated that the bid files will be out available on October 14<sup>th</sup> with the test letting on the 21<sup>st</sup> of October.
3. **Bid Disks.** MDT informed MCA that the bid disks with the bid files currently are being phased out since the information is available in other formats. MDT stated that they would be given out if asked for, probably with a minimal fee.
4. **Annual Grade S Review.** MDT stated that the annual review of the Grade S Special Provision would be conducted soon. The plant mix policy will be revised according to the overall size of the project. Grade D commercial will be used on 0 – 5,000 ton projects and Grade S Volumetrics will be used on projects over 20,000 tons. Projects between 5000 and 20,000 tons will be a mix of the two based on factors such as highway classification and AADT. MDT requested comments from MCA.
5. **4x8 Test Cylinders.** There is currently an issue with contractors/suppliers not wanting to use 4x8 inch test cylinders. The specification currently allows for either 4x8 inch or 6x12 inch cylinders to be submitted but MDT gets to choose which one will be submitted. All of the research indicates that there is no difference in test results for the two cylinder sizes for aggregate up to 19mm. MDT stated that if MCA has information to the contrary they should bring it forward and MDT would like to address it.

**OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Guardrail Hardware.** MDT informed MCA that there are no more problems with Guardrail Hardware but foreign steel is still showing up on projects. MDT and MCA opted to settle the concerns at the executive meeting following the technical committee meeting.
2. **Erosion Control.** MDT is currently working on an annual update.
3. **Qualified Products List.** The Enabling Specification has been implemented. MDT will have a plan of action by the next meeting.
4. **Addenda Process.** MDT is working with FHWA to have the Friday deadline for QA implemented. MDT felt this would take place within the next month.
5. **Electronic Bidding.** MDT informed MCA that full implementation would not take place until Spring of 2005. InfoTech will be back for more contractor training in January followed by two test lettings and two parallel lettings.
6. **¾" Crushed Top Surfacing.** MDT has looked into MCA's question about using ¾" CTS for the full depth section. MDT opted to wait for the new AASHTO design guideline before making a decision.
7. **Cement Shortage.** MDT and MCA have looked into this concern and both found that there is no shortage of cement this year.

**NEW BUSINESS F/ MCA**

1. **Width Permits in Const. Zones.** MCA asked about the exact laws dealing with how width permits in construction zones are being handled. MDT believes there needs to be better coordination with MCS and the contractor's scheduling. MCA suggested getting Montana Motor Carrier Service and MDT Maintenance involved. Both sides agreed there needs to be better networking to alleviate these concerns.
2. **Utility Relocation Problems.** MCA stated that they would be working with John Fitzgerald to put together a Forum to help dictate time frames and how utilities would be compelled to respond for construction projects. John would like to get an agreement worked out before these concerns make it to the legislature. MDT informed MCA that they have no teeth to make the utilities people adhere to the schedule. MDT also expressed frustration with utilities. MCA asked MDT for some specific examples of problems that they have had in the past with utilities to bring to this forum. MCA also informed MDT that there is an issue with the One Call system. The utilities want to go to the legislature and raise enforcement and fines for the smaller private operations that do not use the One Call Locator.

The next meeting will be **November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004**, beginning at 8:00 a.m. at the **MCA Office**.

cc:	Gene Kaufman, FHWA	Mike Sharp
	Joel Marshik	Suzy Althof
	James Walther	Paul Ferry
	Mark Wissinger	Scott Barnes
	Lisa Durbin	Matt Strizich
	Ryan Antonovich	Kent Barnes
	MCA- Attn, Dee Dee Johnson	District Construction Engineers
	Paul Jogoda	Dan Smith